

App. Serial No. 10/561,625
Docket No.: NL 021505 US

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Remarks

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the patent application. For the reasons and arguments set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is allowable over the cited references.

The non-final Office Action dated November 13, 2006 listed the following rejections: claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; claims 1-9 and 11-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Houston (U.S. 6,307,281); and claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Houston in view of the Official Notice and further in view of Dinechin (U.S. 2003/0177482).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102(b) rejections of claims 1-9 and 11-30, because the cited portions of the Houston reference fail to correspond to all of the claimed limitations. Regarding independent claims 1, 19 and 27 (and as relevant to the claims that depend therefrom), the Office Action fails to cite any portion of the Houston reference that corresponds to the claimed invention including, for example, limitations directed to a program code having power control instructions with an operand having power control information disposed therein. The Office Action cites to Houston's logic component 12 of Figure 1 as corresponding to the processor of the claimed invention; however, the discussion accompanying Figure 1 does not disclose that the logic component 12 executes a power control instruction that includes an operand (*see, e.g.*, col. 3, line 57 to col. 5, line 20). Applicant submits the Houston fails to teach at least this aspect of the claimed invention and, therefore, fails to teach the claimed invention as a whole. Accordingly, the Section 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 19 and 27 are improper and Applicant requests that they be withdrawn.

The Section 102(b) rejections of dependent claims 2-9 and 11-18 which depend from claim 1, claims 20-26 which depend from claim 19, and claims 28-30 which depend from claim 27, are also improper for the reasons discussed above and Applicant requests that they be withdrawn. Moreover, the cited portions of the Houston reference fail to correspond to several further limitations found in these dependent claims, some of which are discussed below.

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Regarding claim 2, the cited portions of Houston (*see, e.g.*, col. 8, lines 40-49) do not teach or suggest any specific opcode, let alone an opcode that uniquely identifies the power control instruction as claimed.

Regarding claim 3, the Office Action cites to various portions of the Houston reference without identifying any specific correspondence for a support register that stores power information for the plurality of hardware resources and that is coupled to enabling logic that controls the power modes of the resources. Applicant submits that the rejection, and/or the Houston reference, is deficient without such citations.

Regarding claim 7, the cited portions of the Houston reference do not teach an enable circuit configured to selectively gate off the clock, address and data inputs for an associated bank of registers as in the claimed invention. Once again, Applicant submits that the rejection, and/or the Houston reference, is deficient without such citations. See also Houston, *e.g.*, Figure 6, col. 9, lines 37-54.

Applicant traverses the Section 101 rejection of claim 18 because the medium is limited to tangible embodiments and because the Office Action fails to address Applicant's prior arguments as required by M.P.E.P. § 707.07(f). The Office Action repeats the Section 101 rejection from the previous Office Action and fails to adequately address Applicant's prior arguments from the previous Response dated September 7, 2006 which Applicant hereby incorporates by reference. The M.P.E.P. dictates that the Examiner should take note of the applicant's arguments and answer the substance of them. *See* M.P.E.P. § 707.07(f). This is consistent with the purpose of aiding the applicant in judging the propriety of continuing the prosecution, as indicated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(a)(2) and 35 U.S.C. § 132. M.P.E.P. § 707.07(f) further urges that the Examiner state the reasons for his or her position (regarding Applicant's arguments) in the record.

Applicant submits that claim 18 is limited to a tangible signal-bearing medium through which a hardware definition program is transmitted or carried on. The transmission type media cited by the Office Action are limited to tangible embodiments such as the actual physical digital and analog communications links (*see, e.g.*, Applicant's specification, page 9, line 30 to page 10, line 1). Moreover, Applicant amended claim 18 in the previous response to clarify that it is limited to a signal-bearing

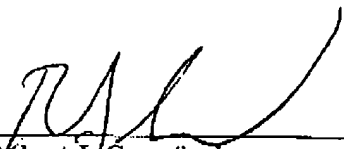
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tangible medium. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Section 101 rejection of claim 18 is improper and Applicant requests that it be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilski, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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